



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

November 1, 2002

H.R. 5334 **Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefits Act of 2002**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on October 9, 2002

SUMMARY

Under current law, the families of public safety officers who have died as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty are eligible for a one-time payment of \$262,100. The amount of this payment is adjusted each year for inflation. For incidents occurring on or after January 1, 2002, H.R. 5334 would extend that benefit to families of public safety officers who have died as a result of a heart attack or stroke suffered while on duty or within 24 hours after participating in a training exercise or responding to an emergency situation.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 5334 would increase direct spending by \$28 million in fiscal year 2003 and by about \$100 million over the 2003-2007 period. H.R. 5334 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 5334 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING^a					
Estimated Budget Authority	28	17	18	18	19
Estimated Outlays	28	17	18	18	19

a. In addition, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5334 would increase discretionary spending by less than \$1 million annually, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

Based on information from the Department of Justice and from associations representing police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians, CBO expects about 65 cases each year in which public safety officers die of heart attacks or strokes while on duty or within 24 hours after participating in a training exercise or responding to an emergency. Under the provisions of H.R. 5334, each officer's family would be eligible for a one-time payment of \$262,100. That amount is adjusted annually for inflation. Thus, CBO estimates that enacting the bill would increase direct spending by about \$15 million annually. Because the bill would authorize payments for deaths that occurred since January 2002, we estimate payments in 2003 would total \$28 million.

In addition, under the provisions of H.R. 5334, public safety officers who have been permanently disabled as a result of a heart attack or stroke suffered while on duty or within 24 hours of a training exercise or emergency response would be eligible for a one-time payment of \$262,100, adjusted annually for inflation; however, this payment would be subject to the availability of appropriations. Based on information from the Department of Justice and from associations representing public safety officers, CBO estimates that any such costs would be less than \$1 million annually because of the small number of cases likely to be affected.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 5334 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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